

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09755 100457Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /071 W
-----016695 110627Z /11

R 100444Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7015
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 09755

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, RP
SUBJECT: GOP COMMENT ON SPECULATION THAA AGUINO MIGHT BE
- RELEASED

REF: MANILA 9670

1. SUMMARY: A PUBLIC COMMENT BY INFORMATION MINISTER TATAD JUNE 9 LENDS ADDITIONAL CREDENCE TO REPORTS THAT AN AMNESTY DECREE, INCLUDING AGUINO, MAY BE FORTHCOMING. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT AND INS, ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS, REVIEW AGUINO CASE TO ASSURE THERE IS NO LEGAL IMPEDIMENT TO HIS ENTERING THE US SHOULD HE ELECT TO APPLY. END SUMMARY
2. TIMES JOURNAL JUNE 10 CARRIED FOLLOWING BRIEF FRONT-PAGE ITEM. BEGIN TEXT: INFORMATION MINISTER FRANCISCO S. TATAD SAID YESTERDAY THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT ACTED NOR HAS COMMITTED ITSELF TO RELEASE FORMER SEN. BENIGNO S. AQUINO. HOWEVER, TATAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SUGGESTIONS FROM CERTAIN PEOPLE TO HAVE THE FORMER SENATOR FREED. "WE ARE LISTENING AND TALKING TO THESE PEOPLE,"
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PAGE 02 MANILA 09755 100457Z

TATAD ADDED. THE CLARIFICATION WAS MADE TO CORRECT SPECULATIVE REPORTS THAT AQUINO, WHO IS FACING CHARGES OF SUBVERSION, MURDER AND ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS WILL BE RELEASED. END TEXT. OTHER JUNE 10 PAPERS DID NOT RUN THIS STORY.

3. TATAD'S COMMENT WAS ALSO CARRIED ON A NUMBER OF RADIO

AND TV STATIONS JUNE 9 (WE UNDERSTAND FROM MIN INFO SOURCE THIS WAS DONE AT TATAD'S DIRECTION).

4. COMMENT: TATAD'S REMARKS LEND ADDITIONAL CREDENCE TO REPORTS (REFTEL) THAT SOME SORT OF AMNESTY DECREE, TO INCLUDE AQUINO, MAY BE NEAR.
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IN LIGHT OF THIS POSSIBILITY, WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPARTMENT AND INS REVIEW AQUINO CASE TO ASSURE THERE IS NO LEGAL IMPEDIMENT TO HIS ENTERING THE US WITH HIS FAMILY SHOULD HE SO APPLY. THIS MIGHT INCLUDE A CHECK OF EXCLUDABILITY UNDER SECTION 212 (A) (28), AS WAS RECENTLY DONE IN THE CASE OF CHARITO PLANAS, AS WELL AS SECTION 212 (A) (9). (RE LATTER PROVISION, DEPARTMENT AWARE THAT AQUINO WAS "CONVICTED" BY PHIL MILITARY TRIBUNAL INTER ALIA ON MURDER CHARGE BUT THAT HE HAS CHALLENGED COMPETENCY OF TRIBUNNEL AND HIS APPEAL TO PHIL SUPREME COURT IS PENDING.) IN ADDITION, REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S ADVISE AS TO WHAT PROCEDURES EMBASSY SHOULD FOLLOW IN PROCESSING POSSIBLE AQUINO APPLICATION FOR ENTRY. MURPHY

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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